IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method of adapting asset delivery within a heterogeneous multimedia video-on-demand distribution system having service provider equipment and at least one set top terminal, comprising the steps of:

determining at the service provider equipment, for each set top terminal (STT) requesting a session for video content in the heterogeneous multimedia video-on-demand distribution system, a capability level of said STT and a capability level of the distribution network;

selecting, from a plurality of available video content and navigational asset versions stored on said service provider equipment, one of said versions of video content and navigational assets appropriate to said capability level of said STT; and

providing, via at least one of a plurality of transmission channels, said selected video content and navigational assets in response to STT communications indicative of a need for said video content and assets, said navigational assets comprising a plurality of applets, said applets being stored at said service provider equipment, where each applet comprises video information, graphics information, and control information, and wherein said STT being configured to selectively tune, downconvert, and depacketize said video content and assets received via said transmission channels.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said capability level is defined in terms of at least one of a graphics processing capability, a command processing capability, a video processing capability, an audio processing capability and a bandwidth capability.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said assets are stored in an asset data base, each of said stored assets being associated with at least one STT capability level.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of selecting comprises the step of selecting, from said asset data base, an asset having associated with it the capability level of the STT requiring said asset.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein an initial navigation asset provided to a set top terminal comprises associated control information, said control information being indicative of related navigation assets within said asset data

base having associated with them a capability level of said STT receiving said initial navigation asset.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said navigation assets comprising a plurality of applets including said video information, graphic information and control information, are provided to a set top terminal in response to user interaction with control information at said set top terminal indicative of a need for said stored applets.

17. (Previously presented) In an interactive multimedia video-on-demand distribution system including video-on-demand provider equipment coupled to subscriber equipment via a communications network, a method for adapting provided information to a set top terminal (STT) comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of versions of multimedia video-on-demand (VOD) information at the provider equipment, said versions of VOD information corresponding to differing capability levels associated with various types of STTs;

determining at the service provider equipment, during a video-on-demand session initiation, a capability level of said STT, said determination being made by comparing STT configuration information to a data base of STT capability information;

providing, to said STT in response to an STT request for information via at least one of a plurality of transmission channels, information comprising navigator assets adapted to said determined capability level of said STT, wherein said STT selectively tunes, downconverts, and depacketizes said navigation assets received via said transmission channels, wherein said navigation assets comprise a plurality of applets stored at said service provider equipment, said applets comprising video information, graphics information, and control information; and

each of said set top terminals having a common video information processing architecture, one of a plurality of control architectures, and one of a plurality of graphics processing architectures, wherein said navigator assets are optimized to each of the possible STT capability levels to provide a plurality of respective navigator assets, each

of said respective navigator assets having associated with it a respective STT capability level.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said provided information is optimized, either in real time or before storage, to each of the possible STT capability levels.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said determined capability level of said STT is defined in terms of at least one of a graphics processing capability, a command processing capability, a video processing capability, an audio processing capability, and a bandwidth capability.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said navigation assets including video information, graphics information and control information are provided by said information provider in response to requests from subscriber equipment.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said requests comprise leads to said applets stored within said control information of said assets.

23. (Previously presented) In a multimedia video-on-demand distribution system including information provider equipment and information subscriber equipment, said information subscriber equipment comprising a plurality of set top terminals (STTs), each of said STTs providing at least a minimum level of graphics processing capability and a minimum level of image processing capability, information provider apparatus comprising:

a session controller associated with the provider equipment, for interacting with each STT in the multimedia video-on-demand distribution system to responsively provide, via at least one of a plurality of transmission channels, at least content streams

from one of a plurality of versions of content stored at said provider equipment, said stored versions corresponding to differing capability levels associated with said STTs, said provided content streams being adapted to a video processing capability of said STT requesting said provided content stream, said session controller storing, within a data base, information indicative of the video processing capability of said STT, said session controller providing navigational assets to each STT in a form of a plurality of applets comprising video information, graphics information and control information, and in accordance with the control capability and graphics capability of said STT, and wherein said STT is configured to selectively tune, downconvert, and depacketize said content streams received via said transmission channels.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said session controller causes graphic assets to be provided to said STTs, said provided graphic assets being adapted to said graphics processing capabilities of said STTs, information indicative of said graphics processing capabilities of said STTs being stored in said data base.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein each of said STTs has associated with it control capability, said session controller providing control related assets to said STT in accordance with said control capability of said STT, information indicative of a level of control capability associated with each STT being stored in said data base.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein each of said STTs has associated with it one of a plurality of predefined control capabilities and predefined graphics processing capabilities, said session controller providing control related assets and graphic assets to each STT in accordance with the control capability and graphics capability of said STT.

27. Cancelled

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein an initial navigation asset provided to a STT comprises control information indicative of related navigation assets within said asset data base having associated with them a capability level of said STT receiving said initial navigation asset.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said applets are stored on said information provider equipment and are provided to said STT in response to user interaction with control information at said STT indicative of a need for said stored applets.

30. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

adapting said selected navigational asset version provided to said at least one set top terminal without reprocessing the selected video content, wherein said selected video content includes a plurality of interspersed NULL packets, such that at least a portion of said NULL packets are replaced by navigational asset packets associated said selected video content version.

31. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

interspersing NULL packets amongst each version of multimedia video-on-demand (VOD) information; and

adapting navigator assets provided to said STT without reprocessing requested video content, such that at least a portion of said NULL packets are replaced by navigator asset packets associated said requested video content version.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said versions of content include a plurality of interspersed NULL packets, such that at least a portion of said NULL packets are replaced by navigational asset packets associated said video content version.